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CONSERVATION OF THE PURITY OF SOILS IN CEREAL CROPPING

THIS seems to be the day of "conservation." Having suddenly caught the idea that our natural resources are rapidly being wasted through careless methods, and largely because of the intense desire of our people to accumulate riches, many of the best minds are concentrating their efforts toward husbanding natural resources. With the rapid increase in population and the numerous new desires which go with civilization the drain upon natural resources becomes apparent to every one. Almost every magazine and daily paper bears a message upon some new phase of conservation: As the conservation of human health and energy, conservation of forests, mines and water power; and the essentials of soil fertility; and there are even those who are crying for the conservation of capital, perhaps not unwisely.

The greatest asset of the human race is the earth and its products, and it is a view of the necessity of conserving a certain feature of crop productivity of the soil that I wish to bring before you. While we all talk freely of conservation, it must be recognized that there is no feature of it that is easy to carry out in a theoretically correct manner. Human interests and human understandings are so diverse that what is fact to one man is theory to another. In dealing with so simple a matter as the cropping of the soil to a particular crop, it is only when a great majority of our best educated agriculturists agree upon a feature, that it seems possible to get it accepted by the farming public, and often then it is only a comparatively small